



# FRED CLARK

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE ♦ 42ND ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
January 26, 2012

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## **Rep. Clark Statement on Overhaul of Mining Regulations**

MADISON – Representative Fred Clark (D-Baraboo) released the following statement in regards to the passage of Assembly Bill 426, which reforms Wisconsin’s ferrous mining laws:

“Unfortunately, this evening Assembly Republicans passed an extreme version of Wisconsin’s ferrous mining laws on a straight party vote that will put our natural resources and northern communities at an unprecedented risk.

“Last night we heard our Governor deceive Wisconsin citizens into thinking that our state is on the right track and tonight my Assembly Republican colleagues followed in lockstep as they tried to sell a suckers deal to the people of Wisconsin. This legislature has simply rolled over to an out-of-state company to sell off some of our of state’s most valuable natural assets. This bill was sold on the hopeful notion of job creation, but in reality this was a giveaway to the mine operator, a rollback of environmental safeguards, and a huge risk to the communities of northern Wisconsin.”

“It is possible to do mining right in Wisconsin. But we must not forget that we hold the bargaining chip. The iron ore in the Penokee Range is not going anywhere. Tonight this legislature has left future generations with the risk of persistent poverty, unemployment, bad health, and depletion of our clean air, water, and land. Allowing the state to skim off revenues that should be going to local communities is a travesty. Research shows that mining communities too often suffer from long-term poverty and unemployment, yet this bill does not provide revenues for these same local communities to reinvest in education, infrastructure, and other industries.”

“Instead of a real mining bill, this bill was simply a sellout to special interests. It won’t help get a mine built properly; it will simply put the people who most need the benefits of mineral wealth in Wisconsin at risk.”